

ideas. Family, work, how you do in life depends more on effort and what kind of person you are than IQ and income. Just basic things. If you ask me what is wrong with this country today, I'll tell you what. Millions of people don't think it works that way anymore, and for millions of people it does not work that way anymore.

We have a whole generation of children growing up who will not be able to tell these stories, who shoot each other on the street, who have access to guns in a way they would not have access in any other country in the world. We say we're a law and order country. We're the most religious, big country in the entire world, by far, and we're the only ones that let teenagers be better armed than police, who have no structure, order in their lives, who have no identity with a future, who impulsively do things that destroy others and themselves.

When I was Governor of my State, I kept a little picture on my wall. I looked at it every day when I was 6 years old, laying on my back with a broken leg above the knee, at a time when they couldn't even figure out how to put a cast on it, so I had a steel pin put through my ankle, and my leg was hung up. And I'm there, holding hands with my great-grandfather, who lived out in the country in a house built up on stilts, hardly ever got out of overalls, and had no education at all. But he worked hard, he loved me, he did his job, and it worked, whatever it was in our family, it worked.

There are millions of people in this country today who will never even know who their great-grandparents were, who will have no pictures, who will have no nonreading parents who make sure they have books, who run them to the library. You ask me what is amiss in this country today. Well, there are a lot of changes we have

to make, and we're going to make them. We're going to adjust the global economy.

Did you see what the Prime Minister of Germany said the other day? America has got it. They're working. They're going to be productive. They're going to grow again. But it won't work unless the dream that brought your families here is rekindled; unless our diversity, our religious and racial diversity becomes a strength again, not a weakness; and unless we can figure out a way to bring all those other kids back into the life that we take for granted so the future has a claim on them, just as it did on all of us when we were growing up.

So I ask you tonight when you go home, think of how Matilda Cuomo's family felt the first time they heard her give a speech. Think of what Phil Rizzuto's family felt like the first time he put on a Yankee uniform. Think of what Mr. Grasso's family felt like when they thought, "My God, he's the head of the most important financial exchange in the entire world." Think of what Danny DeVito's relatives felt like when he made it in Hollywood. Think about that. Think about what together we can do to make the children of this country have those feelings.

God bless you, and good night.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 p.m. at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to foundation officers Frank Guarini, president, Frank Stella, chair, Alfred Rotondaro, director, and Anthony J. Gajarsa, vice chair; Jack Valenti, CEO and president, Motion Picture Association of America; Richard Grasso, president and vice chairman, New York Stock Exchange; Phil Rizzuto, former baseball player and sportscaster; and Matilda Cuomo, first lady of New York.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

October 25, 1993

Haiti

Q. Mr. President, all these reports are coming out of Haiti that there could be a breakthrough in the process that would bring Aristide back in. Is that optimism justified?

President Clinton. Well, there's been some movement over the weekend. I've learned in dealing with Haiti not to be optimistic ever. But there has been some movement, and it's hopeful, and we'll keep working on it.

Let me also say, President Mubarak and I will have statements to make and will answer questions later, but I'm glad to welcome him back to Washington to congratulate him on his election. And this is the first opportunity I've had face to face to thank him for the critical role that he has played in the Middle East peace process. We're looking forward to having a good discussion about that, and we'll have more to say about it later.

Q. Mr. President, over the weekend, Bob Dole said that returning Aristide to Haiti is not worth a single American life. What's your response?

President Clinton. Well, my response is that our policy is to attempt to restore democracy in Haiti, that we are doing it in the way that we think is best and that is supported by Aristide and Prime Minister Malval. We have our ships there, and you know what we're doing. And they've never asked us to run the country for them. They've asked us to help the democratic process to be restored. We hope it can be done. The United States has an interest in that, avoiding large-scale outpourings of refugees, making sure the country is not a conduit for drug deliveries to this country, and promoting democracy in our hemisphere. And we're pursuing that policy.

Palestinian Prisoners

Q. President Mubarak, can we ask about your feelings about Israel's releasing these Palestinian prisoners today?

President Mubarak. I think it's a very good act. And we have discussed this before with Prime Minister Rabin. And the man really—[inaudible]—in doing as far as he could to restore peace and reach a comprehensive settlement to the problem. It's a very good step forward.

Q. Mr. President, your feelings?

President Clinton. I agree. I'm very pleased. He should come every day. I can say I agree—[laughter]—shorten my answer.

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]

Invitation to Egypt

Q. Can I ask a question, Mr. President? When are you going to come and visit Egypt? [Inaudible]—invitation from me.

President Clinton. I think President Mubarak will have to invite me.

Discussions with President Mubarak

Q. President Clinton, which is the topic you wish to discuss with President Mubarak?

President Clinton. We have many things to discuss. I want to discuss how we can continue to work together on a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. And I want to ask President Mubarak's advice on a whole range of foreign policy issues. I want to be able to thank him personally for the absolutely indispensable role that he has played in the peace process in the Middle East so far. I don't think we would be where we are today if it weren't for President Mubarak. And we'll have our conversation, and then I'll answer your questions afterward. And I'll try to make sure you get equal time with the American press.

Q. Is Somalia on the topic of your talks with President Mubarak?

President Clinton. Oh yes, I expect to discuss Somalia, yes.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:09 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt October 25, 1993

President Clinton. Good afternoon. It's a great pleasure and honor to welcome President Mubarak to Washington once again.

Egypt has acted as one of our Nation's partners over a long time. They were actively involved in the Camp David peace process over

a decade ago. And today, Egypt remains one of our most important global partners. We continue our partnership in working for peace and stability in the Middle East. We're also partners in a host of global efforts, from Operation Desert Storm to peacekeeping in Somalia today.